

## **MODULE 1**

### **AGENDA**

- I. Welcome and Housekeeping
- II. Introductions
- III. Getting to Know You
- IV. “A Time to Walk In Another’s Shoes”
- V. Program Requirements

# **DESCRIPTION OF IMPACT MODULES AND PROCESS**

<b><u>MODULE</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE AND OVERVIEW</u></b>
1	<b>IMPACT INTRODUCTION</b> - The resource family will begin to build a relationship with other members of the group, and develop guidelines for group dynamics. Prospective parents will also begin their exploration of becoming a resource parent.
2	<b>OVERVIEW OF THE FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION PROCESS</b> - Resource parents will understand the purpose of foster care and adoption, and the varied types of services available to children that come into care. Resource parent will also understand how children come into care and the role of the resource parent in permanency planning.
3	<b>PLACEMENT TO PERMANENCY</b> - The resource family will be provided with information on how legal aspects of the system work for the permanence of children, by participating in discussions regarding legal risk placements, concurrent planning, the court system structure, and the rights of children, birth parents, and resource families.
4	<b>THE FOSTER CARE TEAM</b> - This module promotes partnership in parenting by helping the prospective resource parent understand the importance of team-building; the importance of communicating and working with DFCS and other service providers; and his/her role on the Foster Care Team.
5	<b>ADOPTION</b> - Resource parents will understand parenting differences when adopting, and become familiar with the traits and skills that create a successful adoption.
6	<b>RESOURCE AND PRIMARY FAMILY CONNECTIONS</b> - Resource families will learn how to support, develop, and build positive relationships with primary families. Resource parents will understand how to manage visitation and work with children through the process.

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7	<b>IMPACT OF TRAUMA ON CHILD DEVELOPMENT</b> - The resource family will become familiar with the guidelines for child development and understand the impact and effect of trauma on child development.
8	<b>SEPARATION, GRIEF, AND LOSS</b> - Resource parents will understand the influence and impact of separation, grief, and loss on children. Resource families will also become aware of the impact of separation, grief, and loss on their own lives, and begin a process by which they can talk openly about this subject.
9	<b>ATTACHMENT</b> - The resource parent will become familiar with attachment and attachment disorder, and the impact on parenting.
10	<b>SERIOUS EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCES</b> - Resource parents will become familiar with some emotional diagnosis common to children in care, and know some strategies for supporting children.
11	<b>SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUALITY</b> - Resource parents will become familiar with and understand the definitions and types of child sexual abuse. Resource parents will be provided with information on the dynamics of child sexual abuse and different sexual behaviors that constitute sexual abuse. Resource parents will have an understanding of some characteristics of children who have been sexually abused.
12	<b>CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE SEXUALLY ABUSED CHILD</b> - Resource parents will become familiar with techniques to parent a child who is displaying inappropriate sexual behavior. The resource parents will have an understanding of methods to prepare themselves, family members, and their environment to avoid any false allegations while providing the best care for the child.

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<b><u>MODULE</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE AND OVERVIEW</u></b>
13	<b>BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES</b> - Parents will understand the reasons children in care misbehave, and will become familiar with responsive discipline techniques.
14	<b>UNDERSTANDING AND PREVENTING MISBEHAVIOR</b> - Resource parents will be able to understand the difference between punishment and discipline, and their role in implementing the DFCS discipline policy. Techniques for applying appropriate discipline for children in care will be provided.
15	<b>TRANSCULTURAL PARENTING</b> - Resource families will recognize the influences of racial and cultural diversity, and the impact on their ability to parent children with a culture different from their own.
16	<b>PLANNING FOR CHANGE: ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF RESOURCE PARENTING ON THE FAMILY SYSTEM</b> - Resource parents will develop an understanding of the changes inherently created in the family system when a child comes into care. Resource parents will evaluate their family system, and assess the potential impact of the addition of a child or children into the existing family system. Consequently, many resource families may opt out after this component; others will have a strengthened resolve to continue the process.
17	<b>MERGING FAMILY SYSTEMS</b> - Resource parents will focus on the impact of fostering or adopting on their family system from placement to permanency, and understand the need for siblings to be placed together while also recognizing the importance of reducing placement moves.
18	<b>ADVOCATING THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS</b> - The resource parent will be able to work collaboratively with community service providers, and will be able to advocate on behalf of the child to obtain appropriate services.
19 & 20	<b>UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL: SHARING THE EXPERIENCE (PANEL)</b> - Prospective resource parents will have an opportunity to learn more about foster care and adoption by hearing directly from persons experienced in these programs, as well as from those agencies and resources which support these programs.